Roll back in prices of petrol and diesel

2745. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent hike in prices of petrol and diesel during the last few months have affected adversely on essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether strong protests have been made by various State Governments on such move of the public sector oil companies to hike prices of petrol and diesel;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to roll back hike in price of petrol and diesel in view of sharp criticism; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have been decontrolled and are no longer fixed by the Government. The oil marketing companies are now fixing the prices of petrol and diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. Thus, the variations in the international oil prices are likely to be reflected in the domestic prices of petrol and diesel.

The increase in prices of diesel and petroleum impacts directly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation through their weight in WPI. There is also an additional indirect impact of roughly equal magnitude on WPI based inflation of such increase in the prices of diesel and petroleum.

The Government is monitoring the situation.

Allocation of kerosene oil to Himachal Pradesh

2746. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita availability and consumption of kerosene oil in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise average; and